

# ARKANSAS

## CATFISH REPORT



**ARKANSAS  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS)  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

This report contains the results from the Catfish Growers Survey conducted during the first half of January 2004. All known active Arkansas catfish producers were contacted to collect, as of January 1 the inventory and acres being used for production, and sales data during the previous year. The data are also posted on our home page at the Internet address above, and more detailed national statistics at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire and/or to the interview for the survey.

### FOODSIZE CATFISH INVENTORY DOWN 2 PERCENT

**ARKANSAS** catfish producers had 73.4 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2004, down 2 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize totaled 1.5 million, down 34 percent; medium foodsize decreased 18 percent to 22.6 million, while small foodsize, at 49.3 million, was up 10 percent.

Broodfish on hand totaled 125,000, up 4 percent from January 1, 2003. Total stockers, at 132.6 million fish, were up 10 percent, with large stockers increasing 27 percent to 62.6 million. There were 121 million fingerlings on hand, down 8 percent from January 1, 2003.

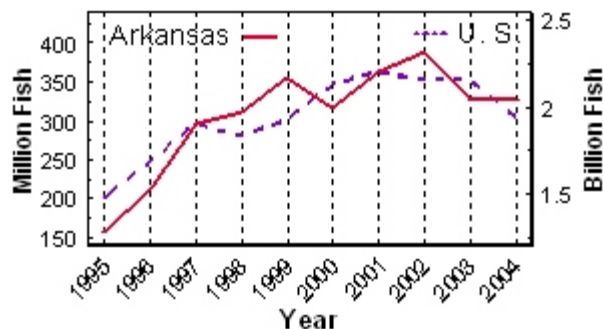
#### ARKANSAS CATFISH INVENTORY AND LIVE WEIGHT BY TYPE AND SIZE, JANUARY 1, 2003-2004

Type/Size	Number			Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight per Fish	
	2003	2004	% Chg.	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>1,000</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		<i>Pounds</i>	
<b>Broodfish</b>	120	125	+ 4	570	590	5.2	5.4
<b>Foodsize Total</b>	74,830	73,440	-2	81,750	80,200	-	-
<b>Large</b>	2,530	1,540	-39	3,650	4,100	3.2	3.4
<b>Medium</b>	27,500	22,600	-18	38,600	30,500	1.9	1.9
<b>Small</b>	44,800	49,300	+ 10	39,500	45,600	0.9	1.0
						<i>Pounds per 1,000 Fish</i>	
<b>Stockers Total</b>	120,200	132,600	+ 10	22,000	22,350	-	-
<b>Large</b>	49,400	62,600	+ 27	16,000	16,800	351	354
<b>Small</b>	70,800	70,000	-1	6,000	5,550	94.5	101.0
<b>Fingerlings</b>	131,000	121,000	-8	3,600	3,000	16.4	13.6

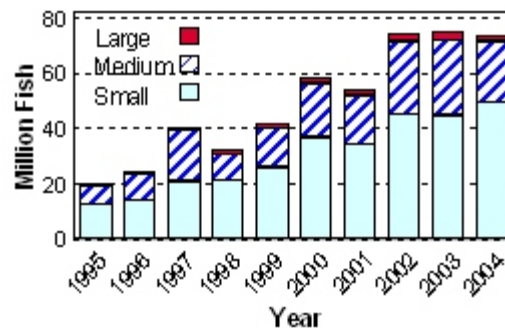
#### Definitions Used for Catfish Production

- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4-6 years of age.
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.
- Medium foodsize: Over 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish.
- Small foodsize: Over ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish.
- Large Stockers: Over 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Small Stockers: Over 60 to 180 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Fingerlings: 60 lbs. and less per 1,000 fish.

**Catfish Inventory, Arkansas and U.S.  
January 1, 1995-2004**



**Arkansas Foodsize Catfish Inventory  
by Size, January 1, 1995-2004**



## 2003 CATFISH VALUE OF SALES UP 5 PERCENT

**Arkansas** catfish growers had sales of \$59 million during 2003, up 5 percent from 2002. All foodsize sales increased 5 percent; fingerlings and fry, up 17 percent; and stocker sales, up 25 percent.

As of January 1, 2004, the water surface acres being used for catfish production totaled 34,000 acres, unchanged from a year earlier. The number of operations increased to 161 from 155 in 2003.

### CATFISH SALES, 2002 AND 2003, ARKANSAS AND U.S.

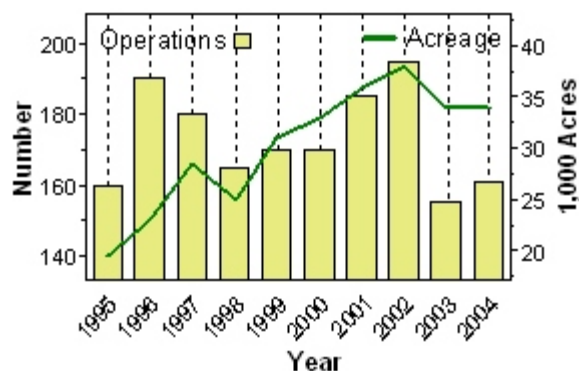
Item	Unit	ARKANSAS			UNITED STATES		
		2002	2003	% Chg.	2002	2003	% Chg.
Total Catfish Sales	1,000 Dollars	56,380	59,047	+ 5	411,413	424,925	+ 3
All Foodsize Fish Sales:	1,000 Dollars	53,350	55,832	+ 5	380,046	397,072	+ 4
Number Sold	1,000 Fish	59,400	59,400	0	406,995	381,662	-6
Live Weight Sold	1,000 Pounds	97,000	99,700	+ 3	675,813	699,310	+ 3
Average Price per Pound	Dollars	.55	.56	+ 2	.56	.57	+ 2

### NUMBER OF OPERATIONS AND WATER SURFACE ACRES, JANUARY 1, 2003-2004

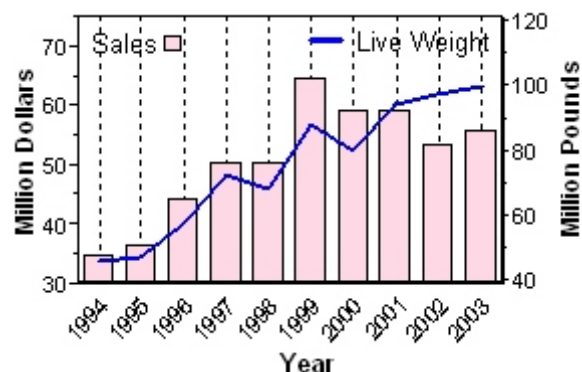
Item	Unit	ARKANSAS			UNITED STATES		
		2003	2004	% Chg.	2003	2004	% Chg.
Catfish Operations, Jan. 1	Number	155	161	+ 4	1,161	1,117	-4
Water Surface Acres Used for Catfish Production 1/	Acres	34,000	34,000	0	187,200	177,790	-5
For Foodsize	Acres	28,500	29,000	+ 2	152,435	148,310	-3
For Fingerlings	Acres	4,200	4,200	0	25,070	23,065	-8
For Broodfish	Acres	650	550	-15	4,830	3,695	-23

1/ During January 1 to June 30. Current year data for intended utilization.

**Catfish Operations and Water Acres  
Arkansas, January 1, 1995-2004**



**Foodsize Catfish Value of Sales and Weight Sold  
Arkansas 1994-2003**



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